

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A spring-powered toy car set comprising:

a winding device defining a receiving area;

5 a toy car including a base, a drive wheel mounted to the base, and a driving mechanism mounted to the base, the driving mechanism including a drive spring arranged to drive the drive wheel, the driving mechanism including a post, the post shiftable between a first position and a second position, the post arranged to prevent the drive spring from driving the drive wheel when the post is in the first position, the post further
10 arranged to permit the drive spring to drive the drive wheel when the post is in the second position;

an adaptor operatively coupled to the spring and mounted to the base, the adaptor sized and shaped to engage the winding device when the toy car is placed on the receiving area to permit winding of the drive spring; and

15 a portion of the receiving area arranged to shift the post to the first position in response to placement of the toy car on the receiving area.

2. The device of claim 1, including a body sized for mounting to the base, the body including an actuator button positioned to contact the post.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein the actuator button is spring biased.

20 4. The device of claim 2, wherein the base includes a spring-loaded retaining tab and wherein the body includes a catch adapted to engage the retaining tab.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the driving mechanism includes at least one rotatable gear having a toothed periphery, and including a pawl shiftable mounted to the base adjacent the toothed periphery, the pawl shiftable between a first position in
25 which the pawl engages the toothed periphery thereby preventing rotation of the rotatable gear and a second position disengaged from the rotatable gear, the pawl shiftable to the

first position in response to shifting of the post to the first position and shiftable to the second position in response to shifting the post to the second position.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein the pawl is spring-biased toward the second position.

5 7. The device of claim 5, wherein the post and the pawl include cooperating camming surfaces.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein the base includes a lower side having an aperture, the post protruding from the aperture when the post is in the second position.

10 9. The device of claim 1, wherein the base includes an upper side having an aperture, the post sized to extend through the aperture.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein the base includes an upper side and a lower side, the post sized to extend through the aperture in the lower side when the post is in the first position, the post sized to extend through the aperture in the upper side when the post is in the second position.

15 11. A toy car comprising:

a base;

a plurality of wheels arranged to support the base for rolling movement over a surface;

20 a drive train including a spring, the drive train mounted to the base and operatively coupled to at least one of the wheels by at least one drive gear, at least a portion of the drive gear surrounded by a set of teeth;

a post shiftable mounted to the base and moveable between a first position and a second position; and

25 a pawl shiftable mounted to the base and responsive to movement of the post, the pawl arranged to prevent rotation of the drive gear when the post is in the first position,

the pawl further arranged to permit rotation of the drive gear when the post is in the second position.

12. The device of claim 11, including a body sized for mounting to the base, the body including a shiftable actuator button arranged to shift the post from the first position to the second position.

13. The device of claims 12, wherein the actuator button is disposed in an aperture formed in the body.

14. The device of claim 13, including a surface disposed adjacent the aperture, and wherein the actuator button is spring-biased away from the surface.

15. The device of claim 12, in combination with a winding device having a winding gear and defining a receiving area, and wherein the toy car includes an adaptor mounted to the base and operatively coupled to the spring, the adaptor sized and shaped to engage the winding gear when the toy car is placed on the receiving area to permit winding of the drive spring.

16. The device of claim 15, wherein the receiving area includes a protrusion, and wherein the post is disposed on the base to be shiftable to the first position in response to placement of the toy car on the receiving area.

17. The device of claim 16, wherein the receiving area includes a pair of protrusions, and wherein the post is located on the base so as to contact a selected one of the protrusions in response to placement of the toy car on the receiving area in either a first orientation or a second orientation.

18. The device of claim 11, wherein the pawl is pivotally mounted to the base and is spring-biased away from the drive gear.

19. The device of claim 18, wherein the post and the pawl include cooperating camming surfaces, and wherein the camming surfaces cooperate to shift the pawl toward the drive gear in response to movement of the post to the first position.

20. The device of claim 19, wherein the base includes an upper side and a lower side, each of the upper and lower sides having an aperture, the post extending through the aperture in the upper side when the post is in the first position, the post extending through the aperture in the lower side when the post is in the second position.

21. A toy car comprising:

a base;

a plurality of wheels arranged to support the base for rolling movement over a surface;

a spring-powered drive train carried by the base and operatively coupled to at least one of the wheels and having at least one rotatable drive gear; the drive gear including a set of teeth;

a post shiftably mounted to the base and moveable between a first position and a second position, the post including a camming surface; and

a pawl carried by the base and including a camming surface, the camming surface of the post and the camming surface of the pawl arranged to shift the pawl into engagement with the teeth of the drive gear in response to movement of the post to the first position, the pawl arranged to shift away from the drive gear in response to movement of the post to the second position.

22. The device of claim 21, including a body sized for mounting to the base, the body including a shiftable actuator button arranged to shift the post from the first position to the second position.

23. The device of claim 22, including a winding device having a winding gear and defining a receiving area, and wherein the toy car includes an adaptor mounted to the base and operatively coupled to the spring-powered drive train, the adaptor sized and shaped to engage the winding gear when the toy car is placed on the receiving area to permit winding of the spring-powered drive train, and wherein the receiving area includes a protrusion, the post disposed on the base such that a lower end of the post contacts the protrusion in response to placement of the toy car on the receiving area thereby shifting the post to the first position.